

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The foodgrain production over last five decades has made an impressive stride. The production of foodgrains has increased from 50.82 million tonnes in 1950-51 to 213.19 million tonnes in 2003-04 and declined thereafter marginally to 208.58 million tonnes in 2005-06. The Prime Minister while addressing the National Development Council Meeting on December 9, 2006, desired the need to address the problem of rejuvenating our agriculture with renewed vigour. Focused and concerted efforts are being made to revitalize agriculture sector, improvement in its production and productivity and enhancement of the income of the farmers. Integrated Cereals Development Programme is under implementation under Macro Management Programme to enhance the production and productivity of cereals, *i.e.*, rice, wheat, jowar, bajra and other millets. To increase the production and productivity of pulses, maize and oilseeds, the integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) is also under operation. National Rainfed Area Authority has been established in 2006 for the sustainable development of rainfed and dryland agriculture in the country. To enhance the water use efficiency in water scarce areas and to enhance the production of agricultural crops including foodgrains, the scheme of Micro Irrigation has been launched in 2005-06. It is also the endeavour of the Government to promote public-private partnership in agriculture sector in various areas like agricultural extension, input supply and marketing support for enhancing the production and productivity of various crops including foodgrains.

Workers in fishery sector

3219. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of fisheries in the country;
- (b) the total number of workers engaged in fish processing industries; and
- (c) the total number of women in fishery sector as fishers and in fish processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the 17th Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries in 2003.

about 144.80 lakh people are dependent on fisheries and its allied activities as sources of livelihood.

(b) About 1.12 lakh persons are engaged in fish processing activity.

(c) About 2.70 lakh women are engaged in actual operation of fishing and 0.66 lakh women are engaged in fish processing activity.

Bt. cotton cultivation

3220. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Bt. cotton cultivation in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the States, the variety of Bt. seeds that have got the approval;

(c) the extent of Bt. cotton farming in the country, since 2000; and

(d) whether Government have conducted any study on the impact of GM seeds on our agriculture and overall economy of farming community in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Bt. cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop approved for commercial cultivation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana/Punjab, Rajasthan, M.P., Gujarat and Maharashtra by Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The details of Bt. cotton hybrids approved for commercial cultivation by GEAC are given in the Statement (See below). -

(c) The extent of Bt. cotton cultivation from Kharif 2002-03, when it was first released for commercial cultivation, to 2006-07 is as under:

Year	Area in lakh ha.
2002-03	0.29
2003-04	0.92
2004-05	4.92
2005-06	12.34
2006-07	34.40 (provisional)